



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219-0041]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Program to Prevent Smoking in Hazardous Areas of Underground Coal Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection for the Program to Prevent Smoking in Hazardous Areas of Underground Coal Mines.

DATES: All comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice may be sent by any of the methods listed below.

- Federal E-Rulemaking Portal:
<http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA-2022-0041.
- Mail/Hand Delivery: Mail or visit DOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9455 to make an appointment, in keeping with the Department of Labor's COVID-19 policy. Special health precautions may be required.
- MSHA will post your comment as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Aromie Noe, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov (email); (202) 693-9440 (voice); or (202) 693-9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811, authorizes the Secretary of Labor to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

Section 317(c) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 877(c), and 30 CFR 75.1702 (smoking; prohibition) prohibit persons from smoking or carrying smoking materials underground or in places where there is a fire or explosion hazard. Under the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 877(c) and 30 CFR 75.1702, coal mine operators are required to develop programs to prevent persons from carrying smoking materials, matches, or lighters underground and to prevent smoking in hazardous areas, such as in or around oil houses, explosives magazines, or other areas where such practice may cause a fire or explosion.

30 CFR 75.1702-1 (smoking program) requires a mine operator to submit a smoking prevention plan to MSHA for approval. Section 103(h) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 813, authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners.

These information collection requirements help to ensure that a fire or explosion hazard does not occur.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to the Program to Prevent Smoking in Hazardous Areas of Underground Coal Mines. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The information collection request will be available on <http://www.regulations.gov>. MSHA cautions the commenter against providing any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Full comments, including

personal information provided, will be made available on www.regulations.gov and www.reginfo.gov.

The public may also examine publicly available documents at DOL-MSHA, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4th floor via the East elevator. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9455 to make an appointment, in keeping with the Department of Labor's COVID-19 policy. Special health precautions may be required.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This request for collection of information contains provisions for the Program to Prevent Smoking in Hazardous Areas of Underground Coal Mines. A smoking prevention program remains in effect for the life of the mine; however, mines occasionally revise their programs and submit them to MSHA. Therefore, the number of annual responses is limited to programs developed for new mines, mines changing ownership, and an occasional revision. In 2020 and 2021, there were 20 new and revised smoking prevention programs approved each year by MSHA under this standard. MSHA estimates that there are no additional costs associated with submission of a smoking prevention program.

MSHA's experience is that a smoking prevention program is relatively straightforward, requiring minimal effort, and a respondent typically submits the plan along with other mandatory plans; therefore, mailing or processing costs are not incurred by the mine operator. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration

OMB Number: 1219-0041

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit

Number of Respondents: 20

Frequency: On occasion

Number of Responses: 20

Annual Burden Hours: 10 hours

Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper Cost: \$0

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,
Certifying Officer.

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